

Application No. 10/810,089
Amendment dated APRIL 11, 2006
Reply to Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review mailed March 16, 2006. Applicants respectfully traverse all objections, rejections, and assertions made by the Examiner. With this amendment and request for continued examination, claims 1, 17, and 21-23 are amended. Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 12-13, 15, 17-18, and 20-23 remain pending.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hedge et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,231,543. Independent claims 1, 17, 21, 22, and 23 are all amended to recite that the non-metallic coating material (or the coating means as recited in claim 22) comprises a paint, lacquer, varnish, or shellac. Hedge et al. do not appear to teach or disclose this limitation. Accordingly, amended independent claims 1, 17, 21, 22, and 23 as well as those claims depending therefrom are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Voyles et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,540,721. As described above, independent claims 1, 17, 21, 22, and 23 are all amended to recite that the non-metallic coating material (or the coating means as recited in claim 22) comprises a paint, lacquer, varnish, or shellac. Just like Hedge et al., Voyles et al. do not appear to teach or disclose this limitation. Accordingly, amended independent claims 1, 17, 21, 22, and 23 as well as those claims depending therefrom are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nishide et al. in U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2004/0267280 A1. Please note that claim 3 is now cancelled. As described above, independent claims 1, 17, 21, 22, and 23 are all amended to recite that the non-metallic coating material (or the coating means as recited in claim 22) comprises a paint, lacquer, varnish, or shellac. The Examiner indicated that Nishide et al. disclose that their "coating material" may include a resin. However, Nishide et al. do not appear to teach or disclose a coating material that comprises a paint, lacquer, varnish, or shellac. Accordingly, amended independent claims 1, 17, 21, 22, and 23 as well as those claims depending therefrom are believed to be in condition for allowance.

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Reexamination and reconsideration are requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is also respectfully requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their attorney,

Date: April 11, 2006


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